



# RACE BY RACE SELECTIONS

by Ron Nicoletti

Saturday, March 14, 2020

## RACE 1:

**2 ONWARD** is returning from the layoff, and turning back to 6 furlongs, in the first start since setting the pace and fading to finish 4<sup>th</sup> in a monster 'key-race' going a mile at Aqueduct, a race that's produced 4 next-out winners from 8 starters. **7 IMA PHAROAH** is a son of American Pharoah debuting for trainer Todd Pletcher with Lasix, and John Velazquez named to ride. The tote action should tell us more. **5 SAGAMORE MISCHIEF** was sharp in the slop when he set the pace and finished a game 2<sup>nd</sup> at the distance. Trainer Tim Hills has Jairo Rendon in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 2-7-5**

## RACE 2:

**1 CRYSTALINA** is dropping to the \$16,000 level on the main track, and adding blinkers, after encountering early trouble and failing to fire thereafter in a \$50,000 maiden test going a 2-turn mile on the turf. Trainer Todd Pletcher has Tyler Gaffalione handling both karma changes.

**7 BOSS WIFE** is stepping it up a notch after rallying from 11<sup>th</sup> and last to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$12,500 maidens at the distance. **4 DAMA DE NOCHE** will give the main track a try after failing to hit the board in a quartet of turf races vs better. Trainer Juan Rodriguez is 17% with the grass-to-dirt angle.

**SELECTIONS: 1-7-4**

## RACE 3:

**7 VITA DOLCE** is dropping to the \$16,000 level, and returning to what appears to be his best surface, after failing to fire when facing \$35,000 optional claimers going 6 furlongs on the main track; Tyler Gaffalione rides for Antonio Sano. **6 GOLDENLINEOF** is wheeling back after vying for the lead throughout and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> – beaten a neck – at this level and distance. The big concern is the 1-for-35 record. **8 SHANGHAI LEVI** comes off back-to-back 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishes trying to notch the elusive 2<sup>nd</sup> career victory (25-1-2-4). Trainer Mohamed Jehaludi has Hall of Fame jock Edgar Prado in the saddle.

**SELECTIONS: 7-6-8**

## RACE 4:

**5 SENSATIONAL RIDE** is plummeting to the \$8,000 level after setting the pace and weakening when finishing 7<sup>th</sup> in the \$50,000 Rough and Ready. Trainer Peter Walder has Rajiv Maragh atop the speedy son of Dunkirk.

**1 SMOKE 'N' GLOAT**, a reclaim by Scott Becker, is hoping to get back on track after showing brief interest and fading at this level and distance last out. The new/old connections have Emisael Jaramillo handling the homecoming. **4 BIG BOY BRUNO**, another from trainer Peter Walder, drops to this level looking to sit the 'trip' behind the speed, which includes his stablemate Sensational Ride.

**SELECTIONS: 5-1-4**

## RACE 5:

**7 BARRANTES** is a \$600,000 gelded son of Ghostzapper debuting for trainer Chad Brown with Lasix, and a series of consistent workouts showing on the Palm Meadows turf; Tyler Gaffalione rides. **3 LETS PLAY HARDBALL** moved to the Mike Maker barn via the claim, and steps it up a notch, after finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> vs \$50,000 maidens going a mile last out. The new connections tab Paco Lopez to ride. **8 MORE THAN USUAL** is a son of More Than Ready debuting for trainer Saffie Joseph Jr with Lasix, and Emisael Jaramillo named to handle the outside draw.

**SELECTIONS: 7-3-8**

## RACE 6:

**6 ZAINO BOYZ** is hoping to stretch his speed on the dirt, at the \$75,000 level, after setting the pace and weakening to finish 5<sup>th</sup> vs a tough field of open-allowance runners going 5 furlongs on the turf. Trainer Bobby Dibona has Emisael Jaramillo handling the surface switch.

**5 R U LUCKY** will compete for the \$75,000 tag in this optional claimer after following the impressive \$50,000 score going 6 ½ furlongs with a stalk-the-pace 4<sup>th</sup> vs \$25,000 state-bred optional claimers going 6 furlongs last out. Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr has Tyler in the saddle.

**4 PERUVIAN BOY** is dropping into this optional claimer after finishing a so-so 5<sup>th</sup> in the \$100,000 Hutcheson Stakes last out. Trainer Antonio Sano has John Velazquez named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 6-5-4**

**RACE 7:**

**5 WAR STAR** is making the 3<sup>rd</sup> start of her current form cycle after rallying to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> vs \$20,000 state-bred optional claimers at the distance. **3 BALLIE'S DREAM** will try to make it 3 in a row after following her \$14,000 maiden victory with a solid \$14,000 '2-lifetime' score last out. Trainer Laura Cazares has Marcos Meneses named to ride. **6 OVER GATORS** is dropping a notch after setting the pace and fading to finish 5<sup>th</sup> behind War Star last out. Trainer Robert Smith has Paco Lopez named to ride.

**SELECTIONS: 5-3-6****RACE 8:**

**7 EXTRAORDINARY**, a \$750,000 son of Speightstown, is debuting locally after tracking the pace and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> behind Texas Swing, who ran 3<sup>rd</sup> in the G3 Tampa Bay Derby in his last, and behind Giocare, who broke his maiden here last out, in a mile & 40-yard special weight test at Tampa. Jose Ortiz rides for Rodolphe Brisset.

**8 RAG TAG** will break from the outside after a solid local debut at the distance in which he tracked the pace and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> going a mile on a sealed sloppy track. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez returning on the son of Union Rags. **3 THE FALCON** drops back to reality after following a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish on the synthetic surface at Turfway with a distant 7<sup>th</sup> place finish in the G2 Fountain of Youth; blinkers off today.

**SELECTIONS: 7-8-3****RACE 9:**

**2 VALDOLOBO (IRE)** is stepping up to the next level after shipping in from Indiana Grand and notching his 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive turf victory when defeating \$16,000 '2-lifetime' claimers here during January. Trainer Brendan Walsh has Jose Ortiz going for 2 in a row.

**1 KING LEONARDO** was solid in defeat when he rallied to get beat a nose by repeat winner Gunslinger at this level and distance. Trainer Juan Rodriguez has Santiago Gonzalez in the saddle again. **6 RULE YOURSELF**, now in the Saffie Joseph Jr barn, the gelding returns to South Florida after a somewhat consistent campaign on the Laurel turf. Note the gelding won his only previous race on this course, albeit many moons ago.

**SELECTIONS: 2-1-6****RACE 10:**

**4 DALARNA** will try to make it 3 in a row after following his \$16,000 victory with another 3-length score in the \$50,000 Little Magician. Trainer Bobby Dibona has Victor Lebron going for the hat trick.

**2 AMERICAN NINJA** is looking to chop down the competition at this best distance (11-3-1-1) after rallying to defeat \$16,000 claimers going a mile last out; Paco Lopez rides. **5 ARMCHAIR JOCKEY** was sharp in victory when he made a 4-wide charge to defeat \$35,000 starter allowance runners at this mile and a sixteenth distance. Trainer Mike Maker has John Velazquez atop the son of Bullet Train.

**SELECTIONS: 4-2-5****RACE 11: THE HURRICANE BERTIE (G3)**

**7 WILDWOOD'S BEAUTY** is dropping a notch on the graded stakes scale after taking the overland route and finishing a wide 2<sup>nd</sup> behind repeat stakes winner Pink Sands in the Grade 2 Inside Information last out. Trainer Scott Becker has Julien Leparoux in the saddle.

**6 NONNA MADELINE** should be primed and ready to turn the tables on Wildwood's Beauty after following her impressive allowance victory 2 starts back with a troubled (steadied backstretch) 3<sup>rd</sup> behind her in the Inside Information. Trainer Todd Pletcher has John Velazquez handling the rematch. **9 LADY KATE** is turning back to 7 furlongs after the pair of open-length allowance victories going a 1-turn mile. Trainer Eddie Kenneally has Jose Ortiz going for 3 in a row.

**SELECTIONS: 7-6-9****RACE 12:**

**9 PAINT THE CORNERS** is stretching out to a mile and a sixteenth (13-3-1-4) after breaking from an outside post, getting parked wide, and still managing to close and get beat only 1 ¼ lengths when finishing 6<sup>th</sup> going a mile. Trainer Murat Sancal has Paco Lopez handling the stretchout. **1 PUT POSITION** will depart from the rail after breaking from Post 12, dueling for the lead, and getting beat a nose going a mile last out. Trainer Scott Becker has Emisael Jaramillo handling the inside speed.

**12 TRILBY** moved to the Larry Rivelli barn via the claim, and stretches out to a mile and a sixteenth, trying to keep her record at the distance unblemished (2-2-0-0). The new connections have Victor Lebron handling the outside draw.

**SELECTIONS: 9-1-12****BEST BET: RACE 8 – 7 EXTRAORDINARY****LONGSHOT: RACE 12 – 9 PAINT THE CORNERS**